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SOCIETY

FOR PROMOTING

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

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ADDRESS

OF THE

DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY

FOR PROMOTING

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

WITH THE

ACT OF INCORPORATION,

By-Laws

AND A

LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

Boston .

FROM THE STEAM POWER PRESS OFFICE.

W. L. Lewis, Printer.

1832.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.

The Officers of the Society for Promoting Theological Education, lately incorporated and organized, present to this Christian community the following

ADDRESS.

“From the early part of the last century, Harvard University had possessed a Professor in Theology; and in the beginning of the present, by the bounty of a distinguished individual,* a Lectureship in the same department had been established. The College also held funds for relieving the expenses of students preparing for the ministry. But the means of obtaining a suitable education for the sacred office being manifestly quite inadequate, the government of that institution, in a circular letter, addressed in the year 1815 to some of its leading friends in different parts of the Commonwealth, and elsewhere, called the attention of the community to the subject. Subscriptions were in consequence obtained to the amount of nearly thirty

* The Honorable Samuel Dexter.

thousand dollars ; and the contributors formed themselves into a society for the promotion of Theological Education, in Harvard University,—under an agreement with the College, that the fund should be in trust, with the President and Fellows of that corporation, jointly with five individuals, chosen from year to year, by the Society. A new professorship, that of Biblical Literature, was soon instituted, upon the basis of the lectureship previously existing, and the Divinity School assumed a form ; and under the able care of the eminent men who filled its offices of instruction, its usefulness and importance rapidly increased. In the year 1824, a change took place in the relation of the Society to the College, by means of an agreement, that the Directors of that Society should exercise an immediate control over the Divinity School, prescribing its course of study, and originating rules for its discipline, subject to the revision of the college government, in all cases in which the Constitution of the College should so require. Under this administration, the number of students was considerably enlarged ; the foundation of a separate library was laid ; and Divinity Hall was erected for the accommodation of students, with apartments for their different exercises, and for lodging ; and a third professorship, that of Pulpit Eloquence and the Pastoral Care, was established by means of new funds, obtained by the Directors from some of this community's numerous and enlightened friends of piety and learning.

"In 1830, the Directors made a proposal to the government of the College, which was acceded to on its part, that the Society's connexion with the Divinity School, both in respect to right of superintendence through the Directors, and to obligation to contribute to its support, should be dissolved. The present object of the Society is expressed in its altered name. Its relation to the University having ceased, it subsists as the Society for Promoting Theological Education, being now at liberty to use its discretion, in applying in any quarter whatever, the means which may be intrusted to it for that purpose. The College government then proceeded to commit to the Theological Faculty, consisting of the President and three Professors, the same trust in the immediate management of the Institution, which had hitherto been exercised by the Directors of the Society.

"This Society is now under no obligation to give to its funds one direction rather than another, except, that they must be appropriated 'for advancing the interests of pure Christianity and promoting a liberal study of the Scriptures,' and 'so as that every encouragement shall be given to the serious, impartial, and unbiassed investigation of Christian truth;' and 'that no assent to the peculiarities of any denomination of Christians shall ever be required.'"^{*}

These purposes will be pursued by the Society, in reference always to theological education at the

^{*} The foregoing historical statement is taken from the Rev. Mr. Palfrey's Discourse, delivered before the Society at the public meeting held on the evening of Sunday, the 5th of June, 1831.

University, unless circumstances unforeseen and unexpected, should give a different direction to its funds, though to promote the same ends.

The Society have lately been incorporated under this name, "*The Society for Promoting Theological Education.*" It has been organized, and the following persons constitute its officers.

WILLIAM SULLIVAN, ESQ. President,

REV. F. W. P. GREENWOOD, Secretary,

GEORGE BOND, ESQ. Treasurer ;

who, with the following gentlemen, constitute the board of Directors :—

STEPHEN HIGGINSON, LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, SAMUEL MAY, and GEORGE B. EMERSON, Esquires, REV. FRANCIS PARKMAN, and REV. JAMES WALKER.

This Society is now entirely dependent for its usefulness on donations, and annual subscriptions. From such sources, it has been enabled heretofore to do the most essential service in the cause of pure religion, piety, and morality. Certain Congregational Societies have made annual contributions to its funds, and these contributions have been appropriated to aid indigent Divinity students in obtaining an education at the Theological School of Cambridge. Many well disposed individuals have made this Society its almoners, in the aforescribed charity. The highly satisfactory state of the Theological Faculty at Harvard University, comprising the talents, labors, and zeal of HENRY WARE, D. D. *Hollis Professor of Divinity*, HENRY WARE, JR. *Professor of Pulpit Eloquence and*

Pastoral Care, JOHN G. PALFREY, *Professor of Biblical Literature, and Dean of the Faculty*, and the increasing demand for Theological learning, and for devoted ministers of the Gospel show, that the same excellent spirit, which has enabled this Society to be useful, is rather renewed than exhausted. To constitute a member of this Society, one must have paid such sum or sums as are made necessary in the first article of the subjoined By-laws. Besides funds obtained in this manner, particular appropriations of congregations, or individuals, will be received and faithfully applied.

The Act of Incorporation and the By-laws are subjoined.

The Society respectfully solicits donations and subscriptions to promote its objects, (its present means being wholly inadequate thereto,) in the full belief that all charitable gifts which are applied to the dissemination of pure religion and of virtue, purify society, and adapt it to perpetuate, in tranquillity, the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*In the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and thirty-one.*

AN ACT to incorporate the Society for promoting Theological Education.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same : That William Sullivan, Stephen Higginson, Leverett Saltonstall, George Bond, Francis Parkman, F. W. P. Greenwood, James Walker, Henry F. Baker, Gideon Barstow, Amos Lawrence, Samuel Whitwell, Abbott Lawrence, and their associates, now known and acting as a voluntary association, under the name of the Society for Promoting Theological Education, with their successors, be, and they hereby are incorporated and made a body politic, under the name of the Society for Promoting Theological Education, for the purpose of assisting young men of competent talents, pure morals and piety, in preparing themselves for the Christian Ministry, and to promote Theological Education ; with power to hold lands and other property for the purpose aforesaid, and the same to purchase or take by donation or bequest : Provided, however, that the same shall never exceed the annual income of twenty thousand dollars, and they may have a common seal, and the same may break and change at pleasure.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That there shall be an Annual Meeting of the Society for the choice of Officers, and the transaction of such other business as may come before them at such time, and of which such notice shall be given as shall be established by the by-laws, to be holden at such place in Boston, as the Directors hereinafter mentioned shall appoint. And at the said meeting shall be chosen by ballot, by the majority of the members present, not less than nine Directors, who shall hold their offices for one

year, and until others are chosen in their stead ; and they shall choose one of their own body to be President of the Society, and two others to be respectively Secretary and Treasurer ; and in case of the death or resignation of either of said Directors, or of the failure of the annual meeting, Directors may be chosen in the manner aforesaid, at any legal meeting of the Society.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That the said Society be, and they hereby are authorised and empowered to make and ordain all needful rules, regulations and by-laws for the government of their own proceedings, for the admission of new members, for defining the duties and powers of their own officers, and generally for the care and management of all the affairs of the Society. Provided, however, that nothing in said rules, regulations, and by-laws shall be repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth ; and provided also, that no assent to the peculiarities of any denomination of Christians shall be required of the Beneficiaries of said Society, and that no discouragement be in any manner or form given to the serious, impartial, and un-biassed investigation of Christian truth.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the present Officers of the voluntary association mentioned in section first, to exercise the powers given to the like officers in this Act, until the first annual meeting of the Society, of which public notice shall be given by the Secretary, at least ten days before the time of such meeting.

In the House of Representatives, June 20, 1831.

Passed to be enacted,

W. B. CALHOUN, Speaker

In Senate, June 21, 1831.

Passed to be enacted,

LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, President.

June 21, 1831.

Approved. LEVI LINCOLN.

A true copy. Attest,

EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

BY - L A W S.

ARTICLE I.

Every person who has given, or shall hereafter give, the sum of fifty dollars to this Society, and every clergyman who has obtained or shall hereafter obtain from his congregation the contribution of one hundred dollars to the same, are recognized as, and declared to be Members of the Society for Life ; and every layman, who shall subscribe and pay annually the sum of five dollars, and every clergyman who shall subscribe and pay annually the sum of two dollars, shall be Members of the Society, so long as they shall continue to make such payment ;—and no terms of membership, other than the payment of sums of money as aforesaid, shall ever be instituted, without the assent by vote of two thirds of the members present at any meeting, which may be called for the purpose of altering this by-law, by public notice in two or more newspapers, published ten days before the time of meeting.

ARTICLE II.

The annual meeting of the society for the choice of officers, and for the transaction of any other busi-

ness shall be holden on such day, in the month of February, annually, and at such place in Boston, as the Directors shall appoint, and of which public notice shall be given.

ARTICLE III.

The Board of Directors shall consist of nine persons; and at all their meetings a majority of the whole number shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV.

The President, if present, shall preside at all meetings of the Society, and of the Directors, and in case of absence, a chairman shall be appointed. The President, or in his absence, the Directors, may call meetings of the Society.

ARTICLE V.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all the proceedings of the Society and of the Directors, and shall notify their respective meetings. He shall also communicate to all public bodies, and other persons, all such proceedings of the Society and of the Directors, as they shall respectively direct to be so communicated.

ARTICLE VI.

The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies given, or in any way due to the Society, and shall dispose of the same as shall be ordered by the Directors. He shall render his account to the Directors once a year, and oftener if required; and a report

LIFE SUBSCRIBERS.

Deceased Members are designated by an Asterisk.

*John Adams, Quincy	Joseph P. Bradlee
*John H. Andrew, Salem	Thomas Brewer
Nathan Appleton	*Moses Brown, Beverly
*Jonathan Amory	*Hodijah Baylies, Dighton
E. T. Andrews	Charles Barnard
Benjamin Adams	W. E. Channing
Abel Adams	*Joseph Coolidge
P. C. Brooks	Joseph Coolidge
Thomas Bartlett	B. W. Crowninshield, Salem
*Edward Blake, Jr.	Thomas P. Cushing
*Wm. Brown	Mary Cochran
Wm. Brown, Waltham	*Geo. Cabot
Thomas D. Bradlee	*Geo. Crowninshield, Salem
George Bond	*Samuel Cobb
Wm. Bartlett, Newburyport	Joshua Clapp
James Byers, Springfield	*Thomas Dawes
Gideon Barstow, Salem	Joshua Davis
Andrew Brimmer	*Charles Davis
John Brazer, Salem	John Dorr
Sarah Blake	Edmund Dwight
Benjamin Bussey	*Elizabeth Derby
*Samuel Bradford	Pickering Dodge, Salem
John Bellows	Humphrey Deveraux, do.
Josiah Bradlee	*John Derby, do.

*Aaron Dexter	*Lemuel Hayward
*Amasa Davis	Daniel Hastings
Samuel Dow	Nathan Hale
Josiah Dow, N. York	Daniel Hammond
*Eleanor Davis	H. C. Howard
Thomas Dennie	*John Howe
*Thomas Dwight, Springfield	B. P. Homer
*Jonathan Dwight, do.	*Bezaleel Howard, Springfield
Jonathan Dwight, do.	H. M. Hayes, N. York
Katharine Dexter	Samuel Hammond
Lorenzo Draper, N. York	S. Hoar, Jr. Concord
Lambert Dexter	Charles Jackson
*Sarah Dearborn	James Jackson
*Samuel Eliot	P. T. Jackson
David Ellis	*J. C. Jones
Otis Everett	T. K. Jones
*Catharine Elliot	John T. Kirkland
Robert Elwell, N. York	Jacob N. Knapp, Walpole, N.H.
*Samuel Endicott, Salem	*James Lloyd
Samuel A. Eliot	Charles Lowell
Eben. Francis	Thomas Lee
Jer. Fitch	John Lowell
John French	*Joseph Lee
A. W. Fuller	*Francis Lee
Joshua Fisher, Beverly	*Wm. Lambert, Roxbury
John Forrester, Salem	John Lowell, Jr,
*Charles Forrester, do.	Luther Lawrence, Lowell
*H. H. Fiske	William Lawrence
Henry Gassett	Amos Lawrence
Francis C. Gray	Abbott Lawrence
John C. Gray	John Lamson
F. W. P. Greenwood	James O. Lincoln, Hingham
Nathaniel Goddard	Ruth Mackay
David Greenough	Samuel May
E. S. Gannett	Thomas Melvill
Joseph Hurd, Charlestown	Perrin May

Israel Munson	R. Rogerson
E. W. Metcalf, Cambridge	Reuben Richards
Andrews Norton, Cambridge	*D. D. Rogers
*Samuel Orne, Salem	Benjamin Rich
*Charles H. Orne, do.	Eben. Rollins
Joseph Orne, do.	James Read
H. G. Otis	Henry Rice
G. A. Otis	*Mrs. Samuel Smith
Samuel Parkman	*David Sears
John Parker,	James Savage
Thomas H. Perkins	Wm. Sturgis
Francis Parkman	Francis Stanton
*James Prince	Jacob T. Slade
Enoch Patterson	C. K. Sargent
D. P. Parker	Benjamin Seaver
William Parsons	R. G. Shaw
William Prescott	*Barney Smith
Sarah Parkman	Wm. Sawyer
John Pierpont	Geo. Searle
John G. Palfrey	Lemuel Shaw
James Perkins	H. Sigourney
Jonathan Phillips	Nathaniel Silsbee, Salem
Samuel Parkman, Jr.	Leverett Saltonstall, do.
Gorham Parsons, Brighton	Benj. Swift, Charlestown
D. L. Pickman, Salem	Joseph Story, Cambridge
Stephen Phillips, do.	R. Sullivan, Brookline
Wm. Pickman, do.	*Samuel C. Thacher
Benj. Pickman, do.	*Edward Tuckerman
Joseph Peabody, do.	Edward Tuckerman
Stephen C. Phillips, do.	Samuel Torrey
Eliphalet Porter, Roxbury	R. D. Tucker
Josiah Quincy, Cambridge	Geo. Ticknor
Andrew Ritchie	Israel Thorndike
*Isaac Rand	Israel Thorndike, Jr.
John Randall	John G. Torrey
John Rogers, Cincinnati	Gideon Tucker, Salem

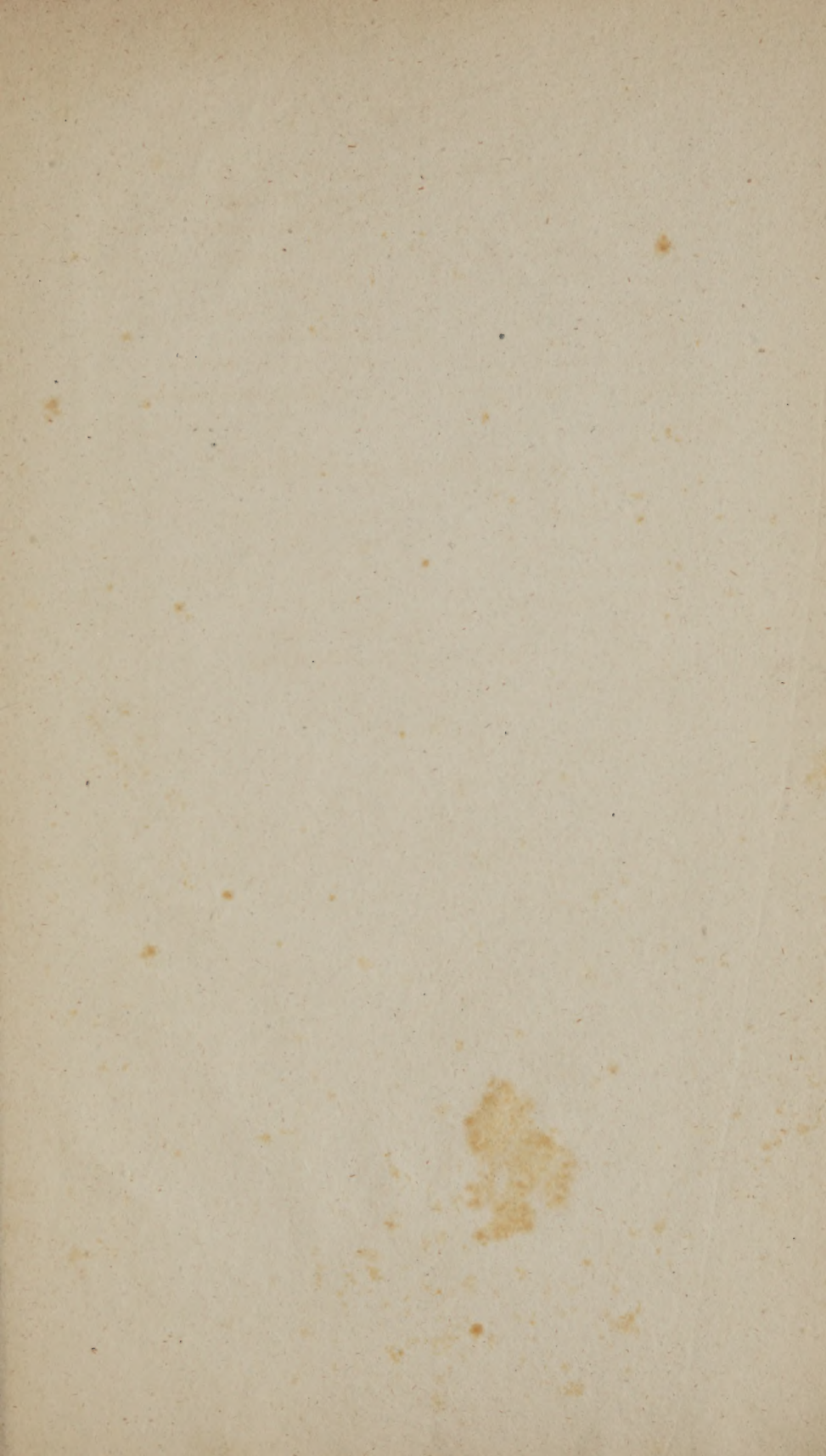
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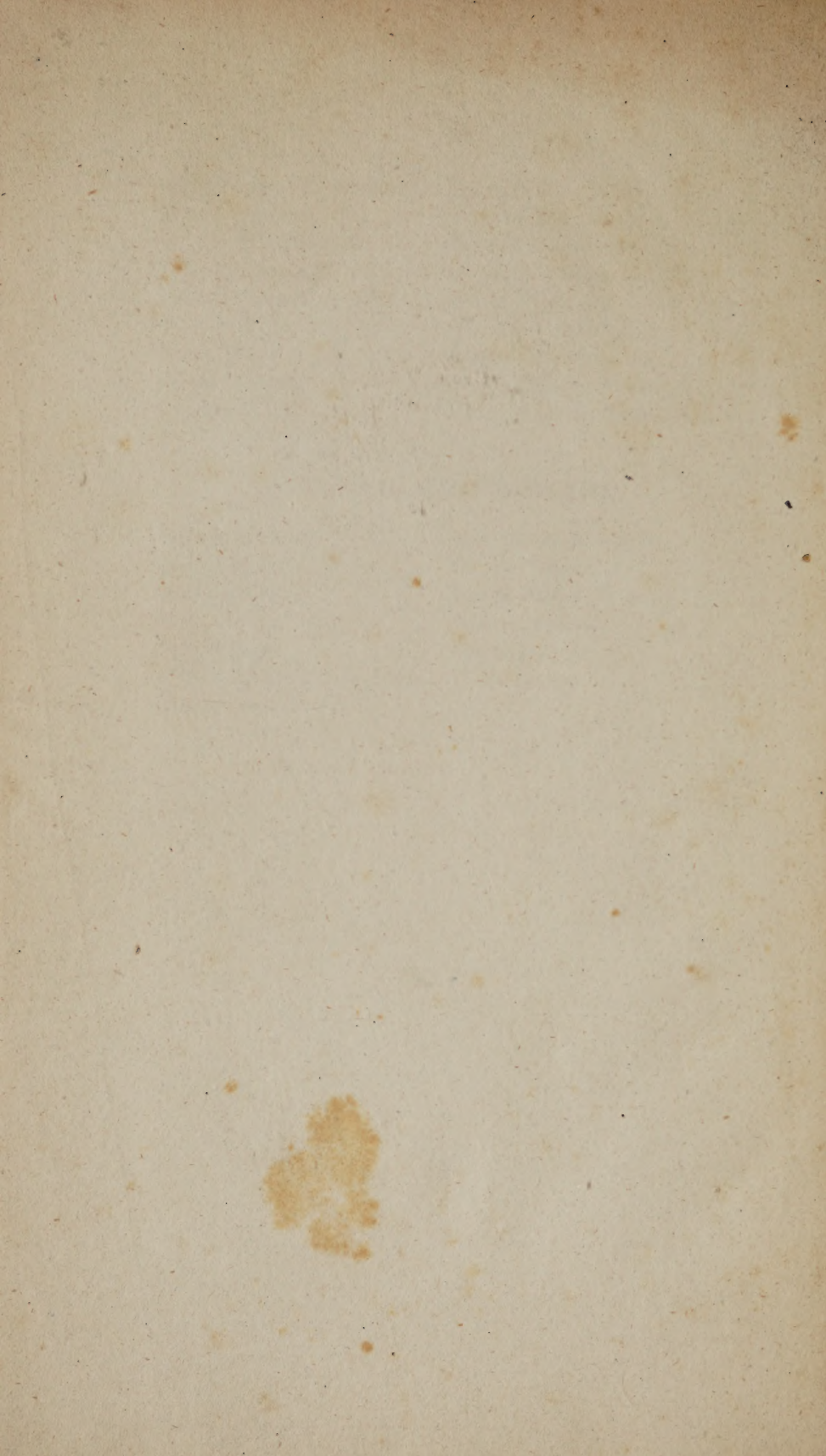
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 Eliphalet Williams
 Daniel Weld
 Thomas B. Wales
 Samuel Whitwell
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 Henry Ware, Jr. Cambridge.

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 E. S. Gannett
 T. B. Gannett, Cambridgeport
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 Samuel Ripley, Waltham
 William Sullivan
 Daniel Sargent
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